

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 USSS-00 SY-05 /085 W

----- 129117

R 191245Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3051

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY, KU

SUBJ: ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS THREAT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS
IN KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 2952 (NOTAL)

1. SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS HAVE SURFACED ON THE ARREST HERE DURING
FIRST WEEK OF JULY OF ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE ARAB COMMUNIST
ORGANIZATION (ACO) (REFTEL). THOSE ARRESTS, WHICH WERE FIRST
THOUGHT PERHAPS TO NUMBER UP TO TWELVE, IN FACT TOTAL THREE,
ALL PALESTINIANS. ANOTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE KUWAIT ACO "CELL"
REPORTEDLY WERE OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE TIME KUWAITI AUTHOR-
ITIES RAIDED THE APARTMENT RENTED BY THE GROUP, BUT THEIR NAMES
ARE NOW KNOWN TO GOK AND WE UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE BEEN BLACKLISTED
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FROM FUTURE ENTRY.

2. ALTHOUGH GOK INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS PUBLICLY ASSERT THAT ACO CELL HERE HAS BEEN TOTALLY WRAPPED-UP, MORNING PAPERS REPORT THAT A LETTER OSTENSIBLY FROM AN ACO MEMBER IN KUWAIT WAS RECEIVED JULY 17 AT LOCAL NEWSPAPER THREATENING VIOLENCE TO "AMERICAN INTERESTS AND CONCERNS" IN KUWAIT IF ANY OF THE DE-TAINEES ARE HURT. EMBOFF CALLED AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR JULY 19 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SECURITY IN LIGHT OF THE ACO INCIDENT. POLICE AND SECURITY OFFICIALS TEND NOT TO BELIEVE LETTER THREAT CREDIBLE AND REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS NO ACO ORGANIZATION LEFT CAPABLE OF BOMBINGS. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, SOMEBODY REMAINS ON THE LOOSE AND FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE IN TRAIN. POLICE DO NOT HAVE ANY CURRENT PLANS TO INCREASE SIZE OF THE SECURITY CONTINGENT AT THE EMBASSY.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT KUWAITIS ARE, IN FACT, TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE LOCAL ACO UNIT HAD ANY FOREIGN LINKS. THIS IS OF COURSE THE INTERESTING AND SENSITIVE ASPECT OF THE CASE, AND HAS LED THE GOVERNMENT TO DECREE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL PROSECUTION COURT, ALL PROCEEDINGS OF WHICH ARE TO BE SECRET, TO TRY THE SUSPECTS.

STOLTZFUS

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